

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5 are pending. Claims 2-4 and 6-7 are cancelled herein.

The following amendments are permissible after final rejection in accordance with 37 CFR 1.116 and do not therefore require a new search because existing dependent claims have been combined into independent claims.

I. Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been combined into claim amended claim 1. No new matter is added. No search is required.

Claim amended 1 = 1+3+4. Claim 1 *claims a switch and a moving member which move in parallel to the running direction of the IC card.* In this way, friction at the contact portion between the card front end and the switch can be eliminated (see page 10, lines 18-21 of the specification). This claimed structure also eliminates a stopper member.

Both Kitahara and newly cited Muto fail to disclose this important friction eliminating limitation.

II. Claims 1 and 5 have been combined into claim amended claim 5 to make claim 5 an independent claim. No new matter is added. No search is required.

Claim 5 claims that the IC card control circuit board and contacts are fixed to the contacts block to make the entire contacts block mechanism is like a modular unit, i.e., contacts attach/detach means. So for the replacement of the contacts block for upgrading the device, for example, only the contacts block unit (with the circuit board built-in) i.e., the contacts attach/detach means is changed, and then attached to the frame.

Both Kitahara and newly cited Muto fail to disclose or teach (or suggest) these limitations.

Claim 8 depends from claim 1 is therefore also respectfully allowable.

III. Claims 6-7 are cancelled herein.

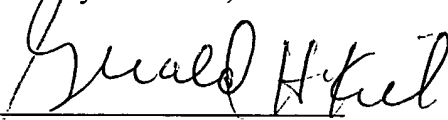
IV. Conclusion.

In light of the *FESTO* case, no claim amendment or argument made herein was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No claim amendment or argument

made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim unless applicant has explicitly stated that the argument is "narrowing." Therefore, it is respectfully requested that all of the claims be reconsidered and allowed.

Please call the undersigned for any reason to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2-4 and 6-7.

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A contacts block mechanism of an IC contact card reader having a contacts block that contacts an input/output terminal on a card surface of an IC contact card for signal transmissions, comprising:

contacts placed in said contacts block for making contact with said input/output terminal;

contacts attach/detach means for moving said contacts block into contact with or away from said input/output terminal; and

an IC card control circuit board mounted to said contacts block, to which one end of said contacts is electrically connected for signal transmissions with said IC card;

wherein said contacts attach/detach means has a switch and a moving member, said switch being capable of making contact with or separating from said IC card during transporting, and said moving member being linked with the movement of said switch for bringing said contacts block into contact with said input/output terminal;

wherein said switch and said moving member are moved in parallel to the running direction of said IC card.

5. (Twice Amended) A contacts block mechanism of an IC contact card reader having a contacts block that contacts an input/output terminal on a card surface of an IC contact card for signal transmissions, comprising:

contacts placed in said contacts block for making contact with said input/output terminal;

contacts attach/detach means for moving said contacts block into contact with or away from said input/output terminal; and

an IC card control circuit board mounted to said contacts block, to which one end of said contacts is electrically connected for signal transmissions with said IC card;

[The contacts block mechanism of an IC contact card reader as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising:]

a frame, to which said members of said contacts block mechanism are fixed, and which, in turn, is attached to a predetermined position in said IC contact card reader.